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the WORLD COUNCIL of CHURCHES (in process of formation)
the INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL
the WORLD ALLIANCE for INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE CHURCHES
the WORLD ALLIANCE of YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
the WORLD'S YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
the WORLD'S STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION
the WORLD'S SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The aim of the Ecumenical Press Service is to keep its readers informed of trends of thought and opinion in and about the Churches and Christian movements. It is therefore not to be held responsible for opinions expressed in its news items.

No. 24/25

Fifteenth Year

June 18/25, 1948

Amsterdam Special

Assembly Delegations Nearly Complete

The most recent Churches to accept membership in the World Council of Churches and to select their Delegations to the first Assembly, are Churches in Japan, Siam and Formosa. Hundred forty-two Churches are now members of the World Council.

The countries represented are: Argentine, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Formosa, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Korea, Japan, Malaya, Roumania, Siam, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, United Kingdom and Eire, Uruguay, United States, British West Indies, Yugoslavia.

The two Japanese Church bodies now in the World Council are the Kyodan (Church of Christ in Japan), and the Sei Ko Kwai (Anglican Church in Japan). Each will send one delegate, permission having been secured from the military occupation forces.

The German Churches have selected 23 official delegates representing all parts of the country including the Russian Zone.

Churches older than the European Churches will be there from the ancient Armenian people, the Copts and the Abyssinians. Also represented at Amsterdam will be the Syrian Church of Malabar in South India, which claims to date back to apostolic times.

No word has as yet been received as to whether the Church in Russia will be represented at Amsterdam. It is possible that after the conference of Orthodox Churches beginning July 7th which has been called by the Moscow Patriarchate, an official word may be received concerning the participation of the Russian Church in the Assembly and in the World Council. Participation on the part of this Church is greatly desired by the World Council.

E.P.S. Geneva

GREAT BRITAINA Call to Prayer for the Lambeth Conference

The Lambeth Conference (see E.P.S. No. 19) will begin with a service in Canterbury Cathedral on July 1st and will end on August 8th with a service in Westminster Abbey. In preparation for the Conference a Call to Prayer has been issued by the Archbishop of Canterbury from which we quote:

"The general theme of the Conference is 'God in His World and in His Church'. Within the whole Catholic Church of Christ, the Churches of the Anglican Communion are entrusted by our Lord with their own special and distinctive responsibility in every part of the world. Their bishops are meeting for the first time for eighteen years to take counsel together not only for the good of the Anglican Communion but also so far as they may for the good of the whole Church and of the world. Pray that the Holy Spirit will assist all the deliberations of the Conference, that He will bind together all its members in the fellowship of truth and zeal, and that He will send them back to their Churches renewed in faith to overcome every hindrance and to set forward the Kingdom of Christ.

"We ask also that with prayer for the Lambeth Conference there may be prayer for the first Assembly of the World Council of Churches to be held at Amsterdam from August 22nd to September 4th...

"It is significant that in these days of darkness over the world these two world Conferences of Christian Churches should be held - significant of God's purpose to us and through us. On the first Whitsunday only a few took note of what was done that day in Jerusalem; but God's work through His Church then began to turn the world upside down. Pray that through those who will be gathered with one accord at Lambeth and at Amsterdam the Holy Spirit may again give to the Church utterance to speak to all peoples, each in their own language, the wonderful works of God."

E.P.S. Geneva

Resettlement and Immigration Bureau of the Lutheran
World Federation

The United States Committee for the Lutheran World Federation, considered through its Administrative Committee the proposal of Dr Howard Hong to establish a Resettlement and Immigration Bureau for the Lutheran World Federation. A sum of \$300,000 was appropriated for this bureau from the funds for 1948.

The headquarters for this service will be in Geneva in connection with the office of the Executive Secretary, Dr S.C. Michelfelder. Dr Stewart Herman of the United Lutheran Church in America was elected Director. Dr Hermann has been on a lecture tour in America for the past 8 months and will assume his new position in July. Dr Herman was formerly the Assistant Director of the Department of Reconstruction and Inter-Church Aid of the World Council of Churches. He had served in Geneva for two years.

E.P.S. Geneva

INDIAA New Chairman of an UN Commission

Dr John Matthai, India's Transport Minister and leading member of the Syrian Orthodox Church of India, has been elected Chairman of the third session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, which opened at Cootacamund, India, on June 1st.

Dr Matthai, thanking the Commission for electing him as Chairman, said that the problem with which the Commission was primarily concerned was the attainment of "freedom from want".

Dr Matthai is a member of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council.
E.P.S. Geneva

The Vatican's Warning

Regarding the "warning" issued by the Holy Office towards joint Christian meetings (see E.P.S. No. 23), Mgr Ottaviani, one of the three main directors of the Holy Office, told newspaper men in Rome that the Vatican condemns particularly the common worship services held in Germany, Switzerland, and the United States with Roman Catholics and non-Catholics, and intends to stop participation in public meetings where conflicting Christian religious views are exchanged with the aim of reaching a common accord.

Mgr Ottaviani added that "the Vatican is particularly concerned that no Catholics should take part in sponsoring the ecumenical conference to be held in Amsterdam and which will be one of the most important attempts to reunite Christendom since the meetings held at Oxford and Edinburgh eleven years ago".

The Rev. Charles Boyer, S.J., leader of the "Unitas" movement, added that although it is possible that the Vatican will send an observer to the Amsterdam meeting "it is most unlikely that it will permit any Roman Catholic to appear before the meeting to argue the Catholic point of view". The Vatican's view is that the Catholic Church is the only true Church, and therefore, Catholics cannot treat on a common footing with other denominations in an attempt to reach a basis on which all Christian confessions can agree. It maintains that reunion of Christianity can be achieved only by the return of other confessions to the Catholic fold.

Father Boyer added, however, "that the Catholic Church is willing to permit Protestant denominations to retain certain 'non-essentials' if they will agree to recognise certain dogmas the Vatican holds as essential, i.e. the obedience to the Pope. On this point Protestants generally do not understand how liberal a stand Catholics take. He said that although returning Protestants would have to grant that the Pope is infallible when speaking 'ex cathedra' (literally from the Chair of St Peter), the fact is that the Popes have spoken infallibly not more than six or seven times in the last eighty years. As to the Encyclicla, very few are 'infallible'. It would be imprudent to say that the Pope is wrong when he issues an Encyclicla, but the possibility remains that he is in error."

The English Roman Catholic periodical "The Tablet" (London, June 12, 1948) writes that a speaker in the German service of the Vatican wireless discussed this warning and remarked that it "seems to have been directed in a special manner to German Catholics". As to the reasons for the promulgation of this admonition, he said, "we would like to point to the wild growth (Wildwuchs) which has made its appearance on the fringes of the Una Sancta Movement, and which by now has penetrated deep into its centre..."

"The speaker pointed out the aberration which prominent Catholics associated with the Una Sancta Movement sometimes emphasised, that non-Catholic denominations were in a position to contribute something valuable and essential to the desired 'Una Sancta Ecclesia Catholica' - something which the Catholic Church was lacking or had lost. The Catholic Church can not tolerate any implication that her Divine Founder was imperfect."

He added: "It is of great importance to know that serious and prominent men of the Geneva Ecumenical Movement are fully aware of the Catholic attitude... They also understand that the Catholic Church cannot be officially represented at the Amsterdam Congress, or at similar events."

Finally it seems that "not affected by the decree of the Holy Office are religious discourses in small or intimate circles where the differences between the denominations are clearly threshed out and the Catholic attitude towards the other denominations are clearly explained. That, after all, is what happens at the instruction of prospective converts. Nor does the decree constitute a veto on loving those outside the Church. On the contrary, that love should be practised so that those outside the Church may find the Way of Truth. It is along these lines that the Church herself prays for the reunion of all in One Faith".

Editorial Note:- Since the above statements refer to Roman Catholic participation in the first Assembly of the World Council of Churches it should be made clear that the decision of the Provisional Committee of the World Council taken in 1947 was that some individual members of the Roman Catholic Church should be invited to attend the Assembly as unofficial observers. E.P.S.Geneva

Meeting of Reconstruction Department's Executive Committee

Work among Europe's refugees received special attention at a meeting in Geneva, June 10th, of the Executive Committee of the Department of Reconstruction and Inter-Church Aid of the World Council of Churches.

It was reported that no improvement in the refugee situation has taken place since the Committee last met in January. Because of lack of funds, the Department's Refugee Division is finding it increasingly difficult to meet the critical needs of the refugees, the Committee was told. Now refugees from Czechoslovakia are adding to the Division's burdens.

The Committee approved the request of Church World Service, American interdenominational relief agency, for transfer of its welfare operations among European refugees. Hitherto administered directly by the CWS Committee on Displaced Persons, the operations after July 1st will be administered and directed by the Refugee Division of the Reconstruction Department.

A new agreement on refugee work reached by the Refugee Division, Church World Service and the Lutheran World Federation was reported to the Committee. It is limited to the co-ordination of operational programmes and budgets. The Department's Refugee Committee was authorised to prepare proposals for the Amsterdam Assembly and Central Committee to create an effective instrument for machinery within the administration for common international Christian action, consultation and pronouncement in the sphere of refugee affairs.

"The speaker pointed out the distinction which prominent Catholics associated with the New Social Movement sometimes emphasized, that non-Catholic elements were in a position to contribute something valuable and essential to the Church, 'the Social Catholic' - something which the Catholic Church was lacking or had lost. The Catholic Church can not tolerate any implication that her Divine Founder was imperfect."

He added: "It is of great importance to know that serious and prominent men of the New Social Movement are fully aware of the Catholic position... They also understand that the Catholic Church cannot be officially represented at the Amsterdam Congress, or in similar events."

Finally it seems that "not affected by the action of the Holy Office and religious differences in small or intimate circles where the differences between the denominations are clearly brought out and the Catholic attitude towards the other denominations are clearly explained. That, after all, is what happens at the situation of prospective converts. Nor does the Church constitute a veto on loving those outside the Church. On the contrary, this love should be extended to those who outside the Church may find the Way of Truth. It is along these lines that the Church herself prays for the reunion of all in One Faith."

Editorial Note: Since the above statements refer to Roman Catholic participation in the first session of the Protestant Committee of the World Council of Churches, it is clear that the decision of the Protestant Committee of the World Council of Churches in 1947 was that some individual members of the Roman Catholic Church should be invited to attend the assembly as unofficial observers.

Meeting of Reconciliation Department's Committee of Churches

Work among Europe's religious leaders received special attention at a meeting in Geneva, June 10th, of the Executive Committee of the Department of Reconciliation and Inter-Church Aid of the World Council of Churches.

It was reported that no improvement in the religious situation has taken place since the Conference last met in January. Because of lack of funds, the Department's Reconciliation Division is finding it increasingly difficult to carry out its critical work. The religious situation was said to be particularly bleak in Czechoslovakia and in the Division's divisions.

The Committee approved the request of General World Council of Churches for information and relief agency, for transfer of its welfare operations from European religious, which are administered directly by the Council's Department of Reconciliation and Inter-Church Aid, to be administered and directed by the Reconciliation Division of the Reconciliation Department.

A new agreement on religious work reached by the Reconciliation Division, Church World Service and the Lutheran World Federation was reported to the Committee. It is related to the co-ordination of general and programs and subjects. The Department's Reconciliation Division is finding it increasingly difficult to carry out its critical work. The religious situation was said to be particularly bleak in Czechoslovakia and in the Division's divisions.

Dr Eugen Gerstenmaier, head of the "Hilfswerk" of the German Evangelical Churches, reported on plans of Hilfswerk to provide a work and study centre in Bremen for 18 refugee Churches in Germany at which their immigration endeavours can be co-ordinated.

E.P.S. Geneva

World Christian Youth Commission

A new stage in the cooperation of the Youth forces of the Christian world is reported in the formation of a World Christian Youth Commission. This Commission has grown out of the effective cooperation carried on in the interests of Christian youth by the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches, the World Council for Christian Education, the World's Student Christian Federation, the World's Alliance of Y.M.C.A.s and the World's Y.W.C.A.

The general purpose of the Commission is to be an instrument of cooperation, sponsoring study of special questions and initiating and carrying out co-operative action in the field of youth among the participating organisations.

The first meeting of the Commission will take place from Monday July 12, till Wednesday July 21, 1948 at the Evangelical Home "Sonneblick", Walzenhausen, Appenzell, Switzerland. The main topic of this meeting will be "Our Common Responsibility in the Secular World".

E.P.S. Geneva

GERMANY

Church and State: A Letter from the Bishops in the Eastern Zone to Marshal Sokolovski

The Bishops, and some other representatives of the Protestant Church in the Eastern Zone of Germany sent a letter of May 11th to Marshal Sokolovski, in which they describe the reasons for the basis of the Church's attitude towards the State and to political parties.

The Church's attitude is described in the letter in three basic principles, which are explained in full;

"1. According to Christian teaching, it is the duty of the individual Christian and hence of the Church as a whole, to obey the state authorities, unless they act contrary to God's commandments. But the Church is not allowed to make itself into an executive organ of state policy.

"2. If the Church has a message about political questions, this message can only grow out of the inner compulsion of the Christian message.

"3. The freedom of the Church to take a positive or negative attitude toward political measures is an inalienable part of the religious freedom which the Church must request the State to give, and of which it has been solemnly assured in the constitutions of the provinces in the Eastern Zone."

The explanation of the first sentence draws attention to the Theological Declaration of Barmen in 1934 in which Jesus Christ is described as "the sole Lord of the Church", and the false doctrine is rejected that the Church should or could

take upon itself political tasks and political honours (which lie outside the scope of its particular mission), thus making itself into an organ of State.

Finally it is pointed out that the Evangelical Church is acting on these principles in its dealings with all the Occupying Powers and all the political parties. The Church is requesting Marshal Sokolovski to give instructions, that in future the Church should not be asked - either by the military government nor by civilian authorities - to give any message concerning political questions; but to leave it to the Church to speak if and when it is called by God to speak about such questions.

E.P.S. Geneva

GERMANY

Compulsory Measures Against the Church Press

The "Potsdamer Church", a Sunday newspaper published in Brandenburg, was recently confiscated at night from a number of vicarages in Brandenburg by the agents of the Ministry for Home Affairs in Brandenburg (Russian Zone). The reason for this action was a declaration published in the paper, emanating from the Evangelical Church leaders of Berlin-Brandenburg on the question of the desires of the people. This declaration contained the following statement:

"If anyone says 'Yes', by giving his signature, he is saying 'Yes' to the actual question before him, not to anything else. He has a right to protest against the misuse of his consent afterwards, in order to carry through certain measures at home or abroad, which he did not mean to approve and to which he cannot give his consent. If anyone does not sign, this does not mean that he has said 'No' to German unity, nor that he should be branded as a traitor to his country."

The Church Leaders' Declaration was read in all the churches in Germany on Trinity Sunday, without opposition.

E.P.S. Geneva

World Alliance for International Friendship through Religion

As the World Alliance for International Friendship through the Churches is giving up its work on June 30th (see E.P.S. No. 14), its archives will be taken over by the Church Peace Union in America. "The World Alliance News-Letter" (New York, May 1948) reports that from June 16 to 18, a World Conference of Religion for Moral and Spiritual Support of the United Nations will be held in New York. The final sessions of this Conference will consider a report drafted by the Fourth Commission on "A Practical Programme of Action". In this report is a proposal to accept responsibility for the future work of the Alliance, with a change in the name to "World Alliance for International Friendship through Religion". An international committee will be nominated, and the work will continue on this new basis with offices in New York and at Lake Success.

E.P.S. Geneva

UNITED STATES

Baptists for World Peace Movement

The Northern Baptists, gathered in Milwaukee for their annual meeting, voted to work with other religious bodies in starting an immediate World Peace Movement to save the world from destruction. Like the conference of denominational social groups in Washington (see E.P.S. No. 18) and the Programme for Peace of the Federal Council

of Churches (see E.P.S. No. 19), the Baptists urged that "every possible avenue" of diplomatic interchange between the United States and Russia be kept open and pledged to combat all forms of war hysteria and hatred and to make use of "creative Christian forces" rather than to rely chiefly on military strength and strategy.

The peace movement will be financed for the present by a "dollars for peace" campaign.

The Convention voted to send fraternal greetings to their 2,000,000 co-religionists in Russia and proposed that American church-goers make special efforts to improve relations between the two countries by exchange of correspondence, discussion groups, conferences, lectures, literature and study courses.

E.P.S. Geneva

KENYA

Christian Unity in Nairobi

According to "The Record" (London, May 28, 1948), on Whitsunday evening the Cathedral of Nairobi was the scene of what is believed to be the first service of an ecumenical character to be held in Kenya. "In a country in which there are nearly 30,000 Europeans, almost half of whom live in or near Nairobi, and in which there is consequently an unofficial colour bar socially, and a Government-recognized culture bar, the Cathedral Church Council felt that a lead should be given to the whole community by the Christians of the capital. The result was the decision to hold a united service on the anniversary of the birth of the Church, in which the Anglican, and Scottish Churches and Salvation Army could take part.

"The Cathedral was full. It was a joy to see Africans and Indians in what is sometimes quite mistakenly regarded as a European Cathedral, and it was as great a joy to find how the regular congregation welcomes those from other denominations and races. It demonstrated that Church differences are not an impassable barrier to those of goodwill, and that where social and racial divisions are deeply rooted, true Christianity rises above them, and is the only thing that can lift men above them."

E.P.S. Geneva

YUGOSLAVIA

Inter-Religious Relations

The Federative Popular Republic of Yugoslavia has published a legal statement "prohibiting incitement to hatred and discord between nationalities, races and religions".

This law stipulates that "all the citizens of the Republic are equal before the law and possess equal rights, without distinction of nationality, race or confession."

Article 2 reads; "Any agitation, publication, printing and distribution of matter for the purpose of provoking or inciting people to inter-national and inter-racial hatred.

"Provocation and incitement to inter-religious hatred consists in attacks by a person of one religion against someone professing another; or in provocation to a hostile attitude - on the confessional basis - by a person professing one religion against a person professing another.

"The scientific criticism of religion in general, and the criticism of irregular procedure on the part of ecclesiastical persons and ministers cannot be regarded as a provocation to inter-religious hatred.

"If the provocation and incitement to inter-religious hatred are the work of an ecclesiastical representative, this will be regarded as an aggravating circumstance."

E.P.S.Geneva

GERMANY

German Doctors Appeal to "Hilfswerk"

"The German doctors are at their wits' end", declared Dr Eugen Gerstenmaier, Director of the "Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen in Deutschland" to a representative of the Ecumenical Press Service, because in many cases even the largest clinics have completely exhausted their stocks of essential medical equipment, or else possess such inadequate supplies that they are practically valueless in face of the prevalent ill-health of the people".

There are only limited supplies even of Atropin, whose chief component is found everywhere except in Germany. Pharmaceutical factories of universal fame, among the Chemical Factory "Merk" in Darmstadt, have stopped producing Atropin. But the crisis in the supply of medicines is acute everywhere. Four university clinics in Greifswald with a total of 1,380 beds are all calling out for medicines to stimulate the heart. "The exceptionally small number of cattle slaughtered", continued Dr Gerstenmaier, "has reduced the current production of medicines so much, that the President of the Central German Health Administration in the Russian Zone declared 'that even if the very last reserves of insulin are exploited, the requirement of insulin cannot possibly be covered by production within the zone'.

Dr Gerstenmaier was sure that it must be possible to make room once a year on a cold-storage vessel from North or South America for 1,000 to 2,000 tons of frozen animal glands - which only represent a fraction of the unused animal glands in the meat-producing countries in the New World. These would quickly supply the lack of medicines for organic diseases in Germany.

E.P.S.Geneva

GERMANY

Tribute to Dr Reinold von Thadden

Dr Reinold von Thadden, who represents the Foreign Office of the Evangelical Church in Germany at the World Council of Churches in Geneva, has received the Degree of Honorary Doctor of Theology from the University of Kiel.

Professor Heinrich Rendtorff, the Rector of the University, in an unofficial letter, ways that it is unusual today to confer this honour upon a non-theologian; but that in this case it is being conferred upon a man who has spent over twenty years of his life as a theological layman in the service and the struggle of the Confessing Church. Dr von Thadden's work for the Church had brought him much trouble and persecution, but had awakened great confidence in him on the part of the Evangelical Church in Germany.

E.P.S. Geneva

"A History of the World's Young Women's Christian Association"

An important volume from the ecumenical standpoint has been produced under the auspices of the World's Y.W.C.A. It is its life-story "A History of the World's Y.W.C.A." by Anne V. Rice, The Woman's Press, New York.

The upward and onward swing of the 94 year old Y.W.C.A. and more particularly of the Worlds' organisations founded in 1894 is vividly depicted and illustrated by many pictures of World's Y.W.C.A. heroines. To E.P.S. readers its most interesting chapters will be those dealing with its ecumenical character and achievements. Already in 1910, Orthodox women were attending World Y.W.C.A. conferences and the YWCA was entering Russia, the Balkans, the Near East and other lands of the Ancient Eastern Churches. Today women belonging to the Orthodox Church and the Jacobite branch of the Syrian Church in India are members of the World's YWCA Executive Committee. The book may be obtained from the World's Y.W.C.A. 37 Quai Wilson, Geneva, (Sw.Fr. 8.50); from the Woman's Press, New York (\$ 2.-) and from the Central YWCA Book-room, Gt. Russell St., London, (12/6). E.P.S. Geneva

UN Commission Approves Religious Freedom Article

Approval of Article 16 of the draft Declaration of Human Rights has been voted at Lake Success by the United Nations Human Rights Commission. The article covers "freedom of thought, conscience and religion".

The form approved was proposed unanimously by a four-nation drafting sub-committee, comprising France, the United Kingdom, Lebanon and Uruguay. It reads :

"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

According to the present schedule, the article will be presented to the Economic and Social Council in Geneva during the summer, and if not modified further, to the Third General Assembly in Paris next autumn.

Satisfaction with the final formulation of the article was expressed by Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, who has served the Human Rights Commission as an official consultant. "While the provision for religious freedom could be written in many different ways", Dr. Nolde said, "the present form incorporates the essential elements. It recognizes inner freedom of thought and conscience. It specifies the important manifestations of teaching, practice, worship and observance and declares that these may take place alone or in community with others and in public or private."

"In specifying that everyone has freedom to change his religion or belief, Dr. Nolde continued, "it paves the way for the application of the article on non-discrimination when a person changes his religion". E.P.S. Geneva

U.S.A.Church World Service Develops Self-Help Programme

Dr Leslie B. Moss, executive associate of Church World Service (Protestant interdenominational relief agency), has announced that in revising its programme Church World Service has emphasised the necessity of "self-help" projects overseas. Operations will be concentrated in fewer centres than at present, and the need for additional funds to carry out the world-wide programme will be stressed.

Commenting on the self-help projects, Dr Moss said it was becoming increasingly clear that they "should ship more supplies of raw materials because the peoples of Europe and Asia will have a fuller opportunity to manufacture their own goods, thus taking care of need, furnishing employment and supplying them at the same time with a chance to develop their own resourcefulness".

This changing of emphasis, he said, "does not mean that requests for gifts of clothing and bedding will be discontinued. On the contrary, CWS plans to ship at least 10,000,000 pounds of clothing and bedding overseas during 1948. Requests for bulk textiles and similar items will also be incorporated".

On Church World Service's need for funds, Dr Moss said: "Not only is assistance needed in providing expenses for handling clothing supplies but the services to Christian groups in other lands require funds for medicines, for concentrated foods for children and invalids, for assistance to pastors such as transportation facilities, libraries, magazines and subsidies for cost of living.

"Assistance to church-sponsored schools, hospitals, orphanages is part of the programme, as is aid to church groups in other lands to help them in making repairs to their church buildings. Church World Service is also deeply committed to the care of Displaced Persons both in Europe and in the USA where they are brought for resettlement".

E.P.S. Geneva

Christian Education in the Orient

Dr Forrest L. Knapp, general secretary for the United States on the World Council of Christian Education, has completed a three-month tour to the Far East. He reports that Christian education councils are being revived in the Philippines, China, Korea and Japan. In the Philippines the former Federation of Evangelical Churches and the Committee on Christian Education have been merged to form the Philippine Federation of Christian Churches. Dr Knapp proposes that a regional conference for religious education be held in Asia before the 1950 meeting of the World Council of Christian Education.

E.P.S. Geneva

KOREAChristian Parole Board

The American military government officials have requested the appointment of a parole board of Christian missionaries which would be responsible for the good conduct of Koreans sentenced by the American courts but recommended for parole.

The parole board will be affiliated with the newly-organised Consultative Social Welfare Committee appointed by the interdenominational missionary body of Seoul. Committee members will correlate the welfare work of the missions and be available for consultation with either military government or Korean organisations interested in social welfare.

E.P.S. Geneva

